

[Cervical Cancer Screening Methods and Apparatus]

Abstract

A disposable device for cervical and endocervical cell collection by a subject: female patient, doctor, other health care practitioner (nurse, paramedic, etc.) or any trained person. The object of the present invention is to provide effective methods and apparatus for easy cervical cancer screening which can be administered without the need for direct cervical observation, for health care facilities or without the assistance of health professionals. The present device is easy and inexpensive to manufacture, as well as easy to use and can therefore be made widely available to the consuming public. It may be designed for retail sale as well as mass distribution for mass prevention campaigns (in hospitals, developing countries) This device includes a plastic tube. The distal end of the tube is closed by a very thin membrane (plastic or other similar material). This tube contains a plastic stick with a proximal enlargement for manipulation by the subject. On the distal end of the stick is inserted a bulb-shaped nylon brush. The female patient on her own, the doctor or paramedic personnel, or

any trained person perform the cell sample collection according to the instructions detailed above (see *claim 11* to *20* and detailed description of the invention)